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### REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are currently pending in the application. Claims 3, and 9-17 have been cancelled without prejudice to applicants right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in this or a subsequent application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification or the claims.

Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. For example, the amendments to claim 1 is found in Examples 2-6, each of which recites an electrophotographic developer comprising a toner particles having a volume average particle diameter of between 8 and 10.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . The electrophotographic developers provided by each of Examples 2-6 provide stable results with respect to image density, background density, toner scattering and carrier flying in any environmental condition throughout the lifetime of the toner cartridge. Accordingly, the specification provides ample support for the amended range of toner particle sizes.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,256,512).

The rejection is traversed.

The present invention provides "electrophotographic developer which reduces toner contamination on the surface of a developer carrier and maintains a charging efficiency in a high state even when narrowed is a mass part (development effective range) where an electrostatically charged-image holder is disposed oppositely to a developer carrier and which is stabilized in an image quality in every environmental situation and has a long life and a low cost and an image-

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forming method using the above developer." See page 7, lines 9-18 and examples 2-6 of the specification as filed.

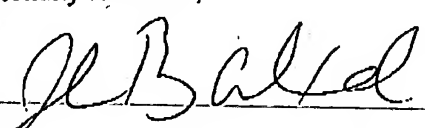
Kobayashi fails to teach or suggest any electrophotographic developer compositions comprising a toner having an average particle size of between 8 and 10.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Each of the various color toner particles have an average particle size of between 11 and 14  $\mu\text{m}$ . Kobayashi neither discloses nor suggests toner compositions having narrower particle size distributions would offer improved performance in electrophotographic developer applications contemplated by the present invention.

Therefore, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated by Kobayashi at the time the invention was made to prepare the electrophotographic developer provided by either claim 1 or claim 8, which comprise toner particles having a small average particle size of between 8 and 10.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and narrow particle size distribution, e.g., only 20% or less particles having a particle size of 6.35  $\mu\text{m}$  or less. Thus claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Kobayashi. Claims 2 and 4-7 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable over Kobayashi.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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